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My Climbing Adventures in Four Continents. By Samuel Turner. x and 283 pp. Illustrations, appendix and index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1911. 9 x 6.

A fascinating account of climbing on many noted mountains, Mount Blanc and the Matterhorn in Europe, the Altai in Asia, Mount Cook in New Zealand, and Aconcagua in South America. In addition, and fully as interesting, are the records of rock climbs in England, where feats of great difficulty, but without the complications of snow, ice and intense cold, were successfully accomplished. The author began his work in the Alps but soon turned his attention to other mountain peaks. The trial of Belukha of the Altai group during the winter season reads like an extremely hazardous if not foolhardy attempt and somewhat belies the author's insistence on carefulness with which the volume closes. In addition to the extreme cold, this peak was attempted without a base of supplies, the assistants refusing to advance, and, alone, the writer doggedly pushed on until, stiff with cold, sick, with eyes practically closed by inflammation, a mis-step nearly swept him down the mountain side in an avalanche, and the mountain was left, unconquered.

Quite a different story is the chapter on the first and only traverse of Mount Cook. The beginning of the climb was made under favorable circumstances—all the aggravating and strength-consuming preparation experienced in Siberia was wanting—and with three companions, this famous mountaineer successfully went over the summit of Cook. The climb was, of course, extremely dangerous, and the descent on the icy slope was painful, but in this instance Turner exhibited the most painstaking care without which the slope could not have been conquered.

The writer speaks modestly of his work as an author, being, as he says, "a commercial man, not a literary man"; but he may well be proud of his work as a climber, and "this plain, uncolored narrative" has for the person interested in mountains much that is worth reading. R. M. Brown.

Le Ciel et l'Atmosphère. Par Louis Houllevigue. xii and 304 pp. Armand Colin, Paris, 1911. F. 3.50. 7½ x 5.

The present writer is glad that the boundaries of our science are hazy if it brings books like this to his table. He must confess, however, that it concerns itself rather with cosmogony and physics than geography. But since 1885, when Miss Clerke's History of Astronomy in the Nineteenth Century appeared, there has come to his hands no such charming account of recent scientific progress.

The chapters on the Synthesis of Light and Wireless Telegraphy are admirable. "The work accomplished belongs to three of the brightest geniuses humanity has possessed, Faraday, Maxwell and Hertz. To-day we can see it in its completeness with its twofold scientific and practical crowning: the synthesis of light and wireless telegraphy" (p. 131). This synthesis of light is not quite what we of an older generation would suppose. Octaves have been borrowed for us from acoustics to think of light waves. The higher ray has half the wave length of the lower. Starting with a ten thousandth of a millimeter, two such octaves cover the tiny wave-lengths of the ultra-violet rays, a third all visible light, then six the invisible rays of heat when we encounter a gap of six octaves more. Below this gap we find the electric waves of Lampa and of Hertz from the sixteenth to the nineteenth octaves, the carriers of the "wireless." A giant Ruhmkorff coil can generate waves of six meters length; Lampa's tiny coil, of the size